

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

THE BURLINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

V.

PACIFIC WEST INDUSTRIES, INC., a Washington corporation; MIKE CZERWINSKI, an individual; and JIM HEWITT, an individual,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:19-cv-00032

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

PACIFIC WEST INDUSTRIES, INC., a Washington corporation; MIKE CZERWINSKI, an individual; and JIM HEWITT, an individual,

Defendants.

The Burlington Insurance Company for their complaint against Defendants Pacific West Industries, Inc., Mike Czerwinski, and Jim Hewitt, alleges as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. The Burlington Insurance Company seeks a declaration that insurance policies it issued to defendant Pacific West Industries, Inc. do not provide defense or indemnity coverage to Pacific West Industries, Inc. or its principals Mike Czerwinski and Jim Hewitt with respect to a lawsuit filed against them.

II. PARTIES

2. The Burlington Insurance Company (“TBIC”) is a North Carolina corporation with its principal place of business in Hartford, Connecticut.

1 3. Upon information and belief, Pacific West Industries, Inc. (“Pacific West”) was at
2 all material times a Washington corporation that conducted business in the state of Washington.

3 4. Upon information and belief, Mike Czerwinski (“Czerwinski”) is an individual
4 residing in the state of Washington and was a principal at Pacific West.

5 5. Upon information and belief, Jim Hewitt (“Hewitt”) is an individual residing in
6 the state of Washington and was a principal at Pacific West.

7 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because is
9 complete diversity of citizenship between TBIC and the defendants and the amount in
10 controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

11 7. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 and LR 3(e)(1) because at
12 least one defendant resides in this district and a substantial number of the events or omissions
13 giving rise to Pacific West, Czerwinski, and Hewitt’s claims for insurance coverage occurred in
14 the Western District of Washington.

15 8. This Court has the authority to determine the parties’ respective rights and other
16 legal obligations pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201. The
17 dispute between the parties with respect to the coverage available to Pacific West, Czerwinski,
18 and Hewitt related to the Stuc-O-Flex lawsuit creates a justiciable controversy.

19 **IV. FACTS**

20 9. The insurance coverage issues in this declaratory judgment action arise out of a
21 lawsuit filed on November 29, 2017 by Stuc-O-Flex International Inc. (“Stuc-O-Flex”) in King
22 County Superior Court. (“Underlying Lawsuit”). Messrs. Czerwinski and Hewitt were named as
23 defendants in the Underlying Lawsuit’s original Complaint.

24 10. In the Underlying Lawsuit, Stuc-O-Flex generally alleges that the defendants
25 engaged in the unauthorized manufacturing and sales of Stuc-O-Flex’s trademark protected
26 Waterway Rainscreen and Ventilation Mats, which are designed for use for certain types of
27 construction.

11. On September 17, 2018, Stuc-O-Flex filed its First Amended Complaint in the Underlying Lawsuit adding, among other things, Pacific West as a defendant.

12. On September 20, 2018, the Underlying Lawsuit was removed to the Western District of Washington (Seattle) and assigned case number 2:18-cv-01386-RAJ.

13. On September 21, 2018, counsel for Pacific West, Czerwinski, and Hewitt tendered the First Amended Complaint to TBIC for defense of the Underlying Lawsuit.

14. In response to the tender, TBIC denied that there was any coverage under the Policies for the claims alleged in the First Amended Complaint, but nevertheless agreed to defend Pacific West, Czerwinski, and Hewitt under a full reservation of rights.

V. THE INSURANCE POLICIES

15. Pacific West is the Named Insured under TBIC commercial general liability policy no. HGL0038644, with a policy period of June 18, 2014 to June 18, 2015, and policy no. HGL0041637, with a policy period June 18, 2015 to October 29, 2015 (collectively, the “Policies”). The Policies contain the same language with regards to the provisions relevant to this declaratory judgment action.

16. Subject to its terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions, the Policies provide the following relevant language related to Coverage A, Bodily Injury and Property Damage:

SECTION I - COVERAGES

COVERAGE A BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY

1. Insuring Agreement

a. We will pay those sums that the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as damages of "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking those damages. However, we will have no duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance does not apply. We may, at our discretion, investigate any "occurrence" and settle any claim or "suit" that may result. But:

(1) The amount we will pay for damages is limited as described in Section III – Limits Of Insurance; and

(2) Our right and duty to defend ends when we have used up the applicable limit of insurance in the payment of judgments or settlements under Coverages A or B or medical expenses under Coverage C.

No other obligation or liability to pay sums or perform acts or services is covered unless explicitly provided for under Supplementary Payments – Coverages A and B.

b. This insurance applies to "bodily injury" and "property damage" only if:

(1) The “bodily injury” or “property damage” is caused by an “occurrence” that takes place in the “coverage territory”;

(2) The “bodily injury” or “property damage” occurs during the policy period; and

(3) Prior to the policy period, no insured listed under Paragraph 1. of Section II – Who Is An Insured and no “employee” authorized by you to give or receive notice of an “occurrence” or claim, knew that the “bodily injury” or “property damage” had occurred, in whole or in part. If such a listed insured or authorized “employee” knew, prior to the policy period, that the “bodily injury” or “property damage” occurred, then any continuation, change or resumption of such “bodily injury” or “property damage” during or after the policy period will be deemed to have been known prior to the policy period.

c. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which occurs during the policy period and was not, prior to the policy period, known to have occurred by any insured listed under Paragraph 1. of Section II – Who Is An Insured or any "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim, includes any continuation, change or resumption of that "bodily injury" or "property damage" after the end of the policy period.

d. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" will be deemed to have been known to have occurred at the earliest time when any insured listed under Paragraph 1. of Section II – Who Is An Insured or any "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim:

- 1 (1) Reports all, or any part, of the “bodily injury”
or “property damage” to us or any other insurer;
- 2 (2) Receives a written or verbal demand or claim
3 for damages because of the “bodily injury” or
“property damage”; or
- 4 (3) Becomes aware by any other means that
5 “bodily injury” or “property damage” has occurred
or has begun to occur.

6 e. Damages because of “bodily injury” include damages
7 claimed by any person or organization for care, loss of
services or death resulting at any time from the “bodily
injury”.

8 17. The Coverage A – Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability contains the
9 following relevant exclusions:

10 **2. Exclusions**

11 This insurance does not apply to:

12 **a. Expected Or Intended Injury**

13 “Bodily injury” or “property damage” expected or intended
14 from the standpoint of the insured. This exclusion does not
15 apply to “bodily injury” resulting from the use of
reasonable force to protect persons or property.

16 **b. Contractual Liability**

17 “Bodily injury” or “property damage” expected or intended
18 from the standpoint of the insured. This exclusion does not
19 apply to “bodily injury” resulting from the use of
reasonable force to protect person or property.

20 *****

21 **k. Damage To Your Product**

22 “Property damage” to “your product” arising out of it or
any part of it.

23 **l. Damage To Your Work**

24 “Property damage” to “your work” arising out of it or any
25 part of it and included in the “products-completed
operations hazard”.

26 **m. Damage To Impaired Property Or Property Not
27 Physically Injured**

1 “Property damage” to “impaired property” or property that
2 has not been physically injured, arising out of:

- 3 (1) A defect, deficiency, in adequacy or dangerous
4 condition in “your product: or “your work”; or
5 (2) A delay or failure by you or anyone acting on
6 your behalf to perform a contract or agreement in
7 accordance with its terms. This exclusion does not
8 apply to the loss of use of other property arising out
9 of sudden and accidental physical injury to “your
10 product” or “your work” after it has been put to its
11 intended use.

12 *****

13 **o. Personal And Advertising Injury**

14 “Bodily injury” arising out of “personal and advertising
15 injury”.

16 *****

17 18. The Coverage A – Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability contains the

18 following relevant definitions:

19 3. “Bodily injury” means bodily injury, sickness or disease
20 sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these
21 at any time.

22 *****

23 8. “Impaired Property” means tangible property, other than “your
24 product” or “your work”, that cannot be used or is less useful
25 because:

26 a. It incorporates “your product” or “your work” that is
27 known or thought to be defective, deficient, inadequate or
28 dangerous; or

29 b. You have failed to fulfill the terms of a contract or
30 agreement; if such property can be restored to use by the
31 repair, replacement, adjustment or removal of “your
32 product” or “your work” or your fulfilling the terms of the
33 contract agreement.

34 *****

35 13. “Occurrence” means an accident, including continuous or
36 repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful
37 conditions.

38 *****

17. "Property damage" means:

- 1
2
3
- a. Physical injury to tangible property, including all resulting loss of use of that property. All such loss of use shall be deemed to occur at the time of the physical injury that caused it; or

4

 - b. Loss of use of tangible property that is not physically injured. All such loss of use shall be deemed to occur at the time of the "occurrence" that caused it.

5

6 *****

7 21. "Your Product"

8 a. Means:

- 9
10
- (1) Any goods or products other than real property, manufactured, sold, handled, distributed or disposed of by:
 - (a) You;
 - (b) Others trading under your name; or
 - (c) A person or organization whose business or assets you have acquired; and

11

 - (2) Containers (other than vehicles), materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such goods or products.

12 b. Includes:

- 13
14
- (1) Warranties or representations made at any time with respect to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or use of "your product"; and

15

 - (2) The providing of or failure to provide warnings or instructions.
- 16
- 17 c. Does not include vending machines or other property rented to or located for the use of others but not sold.

18 22. "Your Work"

19 a. Means:

- 20
21
- (1) Work or operations performed by your or on your behalf; and

22

 - (2) Materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations.

1 b. Includes:

2 (1) Warranties or representations made at any time with
3 respect to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or
use of "your work", and

4 (2) The providing of or failure to provide warnings or
instructions.

5 19. Subject to its terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions, the Policies provide
6 the following relevant language related to Coverage B, Personal and Advertising Injury Liability:

7 **COVERAGE B- PERSONAL AND ADVERTISING INJURY
LIABILITY**

8 **1. Insuring Agreement**

9 a. We will pay those sums that the insured becomes legally
10 obligated to pay as damages because of "personal and
advertising injury" to which this insurance applies. We will
have the right and duty to defend the insured against any
"suit" seeking those damages. However, we will have no
duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking
damages for "personal and advertising injury" to which this
insurance does not apply.

11 b. This insurance applies to "personal and advertising
injury" caused by an offense arising out of your business
but only if the offense was committed in the "coverage
territory" during the policy period.

12 20. The Coverage B – Personal and Advertising Injury Liability contains the
13 following relevant exclusions:

14 **2. Exclusions**

15 This insurance does not apply to:

16 **a. Knowing Violation Of Rights Of Another**

17 "Personal and advertising injury" caused by or at the
direction of the insured with the knowledge that the act
would violate the rights of another and would inflict
"personal and advertising injury".

18 *****

19 **c. Material Published Prior to the Policy Period**

20 "Personal and advertising injury" arising out of oral or
written publication of material whose first publication took
place before the beginning of the policy period.

1 **e. Contractual Liability**

2
3 “Personal and advertising injury: for which the insured has
4 assumed liability in a contract or agreement. This exclusion
5 does not apply to liability for damages that the insured
6 would have in the absence of the contract or agreement.

7 **f. Breach of Contract**

8
9 “Personal and advertising injury” arising out of a breach of
10 contract, except an implied contract to use another’s
11 advertising idea in your “advertisement”.

12 **g. Quality Or Performance of Goods-Failure To
13 Conform To Statements**

14
15 “Personal and advertising injury” arising out of the failure
16 of goods, products or services to conform with any
17 statement of quality or performance made in your
18 “advertisement”.

19 *****

20 **i. Infringement Of Copyright, Patent, Trademark Or
21 Trade Secret**

22
23 “Personal and advertising injury” arising out of the
24 infringement of copyright, patent, trademark, trade secret or
25 other intellectual property rights. Under this exclusion,
26 such other intellectual property rights do not include the
27 use of another’s advertising idea in your “advertisement”.

28
29 However, this exclusion does not apply to infringement, in
30 your “advertisement”, of copyright, trade dress or slogan.

31 *****

32 **l. Unauthorized Use of Another’s Name or Product**

33
34 “Personal and advertising injury” arising out of the
35 unauthorized use of another’s name or product in your e-
36 mail, domain name or metatag, or any other similar tactics
37 to mislead another’s potential customers.

38 *****

39
40 21. The Coverage B – Personal and Advertising Injury Liability contains the
41 following relevant definitions:

- 42
43 1. “Advertisement” means a notice that is broadcast or published
44 to the general public or specific market segments about your

1 goods, products, or services for the purpose of attracting customer
2 or supporters. For the purpose of this definition:

- 3
- 4 a. Notices that are published include material placed on the
5 Internet or on similar electronic means of communications;
6 and
 - 7 b. Regarding web-sites, only that part of a web-site that is
8 about your goods, products or services for the purposes of
9 attracting customers or supporters is considered an
10 advertisement.

11 *****

12 14. "Personal and advertising injury" means injury, including
13 consequential "bodily injury", arising out of one or more of the
14 following offenses:

- 15 a. False arrest, detention or imprisonment;
- 16 b. Malicious prosecution;
- 17 c. The wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or
18 invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room
19 dwelling or premises that a person occupies, committed by
20 or on behalf of its owner, landlord, or lessor;
- 21 d. Oral or written publication, in any manner, or material
22 that slanders or libels a person or organization or
23 disparages a person's or organization's goods, product or
24 services;
- 25 e. Oral or written publication, in any manner, of material
26 that violates a person's right of privacy;
- 27 f. The use of another's advertising idea in your
"advertisement"; or
- 28 g. Infringing upon another's copyright, trade dress or
29 slogan in your "advertisement".

30 22. The Policies contain an Intellectual Property exclusion that applies to both

31 Coverage A and B and state, in relevant part:

32 **THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE
33 READ IT CAREFULLY.**

34 **EXCLUSION - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

35 **This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the
36 following:**

1 **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE**
2 **PART PRODUCTS/COMPLETED OPERATIONS**
3 **LIABILITY COVERAGE PART**

4
5 **A. Paragraph D.** of this endorsement is added to **2. Exclusions of**
6 **Section I - Coverage A - Bodily Injury and Property Damage**
7 **Liability** under the Products/Completed Operations Liability
8 Coverage Form.

9
10 **B. Paragraph D.** of this endorsement is added to **2. Exclusions of**
11 **Section I - Coverage A - Bodily Injury and Property Damage**
12 **Liability** under the Commercial General Liability Coverage Form.

13
14 **C. Paragraph D.** of this endorsement is added to **2, Exclusions of**
15 **Section I - Coverage B - Personal and Advertising Injury**
16 **Liability** under the Commercial General Liability Coverage Form.

17
18 **D. This insurance does not apply to claims for “any injury or**
19 **damage” that results from the actual or alleged infringement or**
20 **violation of any intellectual property rights or laws, including but**
21 **not limited to:**

- 22
23 1. Copyright;
24 2. Patent;
25 3. Trade dress;
26 4. Trade name;
27 5. Trade secret; or
28 6. Trademark.

29
30 **E. The following definition is added:**

31
32 For the purposes of this endorsement, “any injury or damage”
33 means any injury or damage covered under any Coverage Part to
34 which this endorsement is applicable, and includes “bodily injury”,
35 “property damage” or “personal and advertising injury” as defined
36 in the applicable Coverage Part.

37 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

38 (Declaratory Judgment – No Duty to Defend)

39 23. TBIC re-alleges the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 23 as if fully set forth
40 herein.

41 24. There is an actual controversy between TBIC and Pacific West, Czerwinski and
42 Hewitt involving their claim for insurance coverage for the defense of the Underlying Lawsuit.
43

1 25. TBIC requests a declaratory judgment that based on the terms, conditions,
2 limitations, and exclusions of the Policies, and the fact that there is no indemnity coverage for
3 the claims alleged in the Underlying Lawsuit, TBIC does not have any ongoing obligation to
4 defend Pacific West, Czerwinski or Hewitt in the Underlying Lawsuit.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Declaratory Judgment – No Duty to Indemnify)

7 26. TBIC re-alleges the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 26 as if fully set forth
8 herein.

9 27. TBIC requests a declaratory judgment that based on the terms, conditions,
10 limitations, and exclusions of the Policies, and the evidence in the Underlying Lawsuit, TBIC
11 does not have any obligation to indemnify Pacific West, Czerwinski or Hewitt for the damages
12 sought in the Underlying Lawsuit.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, TBIC prays for judgment as follows:

1. For a declaration that TBIC does not currently have, and never had, any obligation to defend Pacific West, Mike Czerwinski, and Jim Hewitt in the Underlying Lawsuit.
 2. For a declaration that TBIC does not currently have and can never have any obligation to indemnify Pacific West, Mike Czerwinski, and Jim Hewitt in the Underlying Lawsuit.
 3. Awarding TBIC costs and disbursements that are recoverable by law.
 4. Awarding TBIC such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

DATED this 9th day of January, 2019.

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